

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT NO.		25X1
SUBJECT	The Proletarski Textile Factory in Sofia	DATE DISTR.	10 July 1953	
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1. After the nationalization of industry in 1948, 35 small factories were amalgamated to form the Proletarski Combine. The combine now consists of three small plants:

- a. The main plant (including the combine's management and stores) at No. 3 Kableshkov Street in the former Rachev Factory;
- b. Another plant on Kableshkov Street, approximately one kilometer from the main plant in the direction of the Vitosha Mountains; and
- c. A dyeing plant in Dervenitsa village, 10 kilometers from Sofia in the direction of Plovdiv.

Management consists of a general manager, a deputy manager, a technical general manager, a deputy technical manager of the sewing and cutting department, a deputy technical manager of the knitting department, and a chief bookkeeper.

2. The main plant consists of three departments, as follows:

- a. Cotton cloth production, equipped with 23 old German circular frames with a width of 15 to 35 inches, two old winding frames of German make and five of Bulgarian make (Gabrovo), four German Interlock machines, four knitting machines, and three ribbing machines;
- b. Natural and artificial silk production, equipped with 35 warp looms and eight machines for the production of warp links; and
- c. Silk and cotton ready-made clothing, equipped with 400-450 sewing machines.

3. The other plant on Kableshkov Street produces cotton goods only. It is equipped with 60 to 70 circular frames, 10 winding frames, 25 Interlock machines, and 40 to 50 knitting machines, all of which were installed in 1948.

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4. The Proletarski Combine has no spinning machinery. It receives 80 percent of its cotton thread from the Bulgarian Spinning Mills at Knyazhevo village, 10 percent from the Dimităr Blagoev Spinning Mills at Kazichene village, and 10 percent from the Textil Spinning Mills at Kurilo.
5. The combine employs 33 administrative workers, 550 to 600 workers, and 40 helpers. Workers can be employed only after approval by the Cadre Manager and by the Secretary of the Party cell; the approval of the secretary has to be obtained before any decisions can be made in the factory. Work is carried out in three shifts per day, and the daily output is as follows: 1,800 kilograms for the first shift, 1,400 kilograms for the second shift, and 1,000 kilograms for the third shift. In 1951 the production was 1,175 tons of finished goods, of which 500 tons were produced by the first shift, 375 by the second shift, and 300 tons by the third shift. Thirty percent of the combine's production is destined for the Army, and all goods sold on the local market are handled by the Obleklo and Obuvki (Clothing and Shoes) State Enterprise.
6. Wages are paid on the basis of norms which are determined separately for each type of production by a committee consisting of employers and workers. Norms have been increased (sic) by as much as 200 percent. During the last few months, a piece-work system has been introduced with the result that workers do not reach more than 130 percent of the norm.
7. The mechanical equipment of the combine was all purchased before World War II, is old, and in need of constant repair. Forty percent of the machinery is not in operation because of the shortage of spare parts and yarn. Some spare parts were imported from Eastern Germany, but they proved to be unsuitable for the machines. Worsted yarn, consisting of 30 percent local wool and 70 percent of Soviet wool, is the principal raw material used. The Soviet wool is spun in Bulgaria. Approximately 80 percent of the raw cotton used is of Soviet origin. Some silk thread has been imported [redacted]
[redacted] All dyes are imported from the USSR, and there is a shortage, particularly of black dye. Trimmings are bought from Bulgarian State-owned factories.
8. The capital of the combine is 600,000,000 leva, and its annual turnover amounts to 3,000,000 leva. A profit of 110,000,000 leva was realized in 1950, largely as the result of high prices charged for its products. Amortization of buildings and machinery is calculated in accordance with government instructions.

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